

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 4, 5 and 9 and AMEND claims 1, 6, 8 and 10-16 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a ~~place-site~~ where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

a purchaser registration unit ~~registering at least one of the purchasers~~ a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith; and

a publication unit making the sales-related information public to any of the purchasers registered by said purchaser registration unit only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith; and

a management unit recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers and updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period meets at least one criterion.

2. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the sales-related information is set for each purchaser company by the seller.

3. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein information registered in said purchaser registration unit is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.

4. ((canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a ~~place-site~~ where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually set for at least one of the purchasers and a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

a management unit recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers and updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period meets at least one criterion; and

a publication unit making public the sales-related information to any of the plurality of purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

7. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 6, wherein the sales-related information is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.

8. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a ~~place-site~~ where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

registering ~~at least one of the purchasers~~ a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith, according to an instruction from the seller; ~~and~~

making public the sales-related information to any of the registered purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period meets at least one criterion.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a ~~place-site~~ where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually set for at least one of the purchasers;

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and
updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period meets at least one criterion; and
making public the sales-related information to any of the plurality of purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

11. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

providing a place-site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;
receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;
registering at least one of the purchasers a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith, according to an instruction from the seller; and

making public the sales-related information to any of the registered purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and
updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period meets at least one criterion.

12. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

providing a place-site where a purchaser and a plurality of sellers participate; ~~for~~
registering at least one of the sellers according to an instruction from the purchaser;
receiving a request related to a trade of a commodity from the purchaser; and
making public the request to the registered sellers.

13. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

providing a place-site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;

receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually set for at least one of the purchasers from the ~~purchaser~~ seller; and

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers;

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period meets at least one criterion; and

making public the sales-related information to any of the ~~plurality of~~ purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

14. (currently amended) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic purchase system is used by a plurality of sellers, and
wherein the electronic purchase system further comprising: a management unit
~~managing a past trade amount of each purchaser; and~~ comprises a discount unit discounting a trade price for a current trade if a total or average trade amount of a purchaser for a past specific period for at least one of the sellers exceeds a specific value, when the purchaser purchases a commodity from the seller.

15. (currently amended) The electronic purchase system according to claim 14, wherein a discount amount reduced from a current trade price is calculated based on ~~a~~ the total or average trade amount of the purchaser for ~~a~~ the past specific period.

16. (currently amended) The electronic purchase system according to claim 14, wherein the total or average trade amount is ~~a~~ the total or average trade amount between ~~a~~ the seller and ~~a~~ the purchaser in the current trade for ~~a~~ the past specific period.